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Title: Vailanna's Capture

Author:  
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Vailanna silently stood on the roof of the guard tower, her ice blue eyes roaming over the crowded throngs of people making their way through the town of Britain. Her face showed no emotion, her past training not allowing the conflict inside of her to show outwardly. She found herself constantly coming to this place during the short periods of time that she was allowed to wander freely. "Why does this place feel like home.. but I remember none of it.." she wondered to herself. One of the towns guards gently tapped her on the shoulder, startling her out of her thoughts. She turned and faced the man, a sudden pain ringing in her head as her eyes laid on his uniform. She heard the man ask if she needed assistance, and despite the kindness in his eyes, she turned and raced blindly down the stairs, suddenly wanting only to escape the place. She raced down the road out of town, stopping only when her lungs felt like they would burst. After catching her breath, she continued down the road and suddenly noticed she was in Stormhaven. Her eyes caught sight of the Citadel, and she again found herself thinking of Eldred Jonas, the warrior

that Rune Artisem and  
the others had brought  
to the Society's home.  
She had wondered how  
the man fared often  
since his return home,  
even going so far as to  
sneak into his room the  
night of his return...

Making her way toward  
the Citadel, her gaze  
fell upon the Shadow  
Knight, the creature  
crying out the news  
of the Sage of  
Spirituality. She leaned  
against the still sun  
warmed stones, quietly  
listening to the  
exclamations of surprise  
and horror, but knew not  
if it was caused by the  
knight or the news he  
bore. A few of the  
townspeople closed in her,  
some offering greetings  
to the stranger and  
others uttering threats.  
She paid none of them  
much mind, and was  
grateful when the knight  
quickly brandished his  
halberd, warning those  
who menaced her. Lost  
in thought she wondered  
to herself why she  
remained at this place,  
knowing no good would  
come of it, yet finding  
herself unable to tear  
herself away. As she  
considered the  
consequences of her  
master discovering she  
was here, her fingers  
reached up to her cheek,  
the purple bruise a still  
vivid reminder of her  
crossing Rune.

The sudden chill of a  
raised blade at her  
throat had her cursing to  
herself for her  
inattentiveness, and  
as her eyes raised, they  
fell upon Eldred standing

before her. Not flinching,  
she tried to form the  
words to make him  
understand, yet her  
thoughts were curtailed  
by his harsh words.  
Vailanna saw the knight's  
form closing in on Eldred,  
and she gave her head  
the barest shake,  
indicating to it to stand  
down and let Eldred be.  
As suddenly as he was  
there, Eldred was gone,  
giving her a cold look as  
he spurred his mount  
and was gone. She  
watched the spot where  
he had been until a small  
group closed around her.  
She found herself faced  
with Shantel, the woman  
who lead the  
Stormguards, accompanied  
by Huma Dragonbane, the  
Regent's Sheriff. Hopeless  
in trying to explain that  
she came only to see  
that Eldred was safe, but  
she knew her words would  
do nothing but fall upon  
deaf ears. She was  
eventually read her rights,  
and the sheriff informed  
her of the charges  
brought against her, and  
her wrists shackled,  
Vailanna found herself  
being led into the Citadel  
itself... "I can only hope  
he will understand.." she  
thought to herself "and  
may the Master not call  
on my service until I get  
myself out of this..."